

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action dated September 13, 2007. At that time, the Examiner allowed claims 35, 37-40 and 49-53. The Examiner rejected claims 1-10, 12-31, 33, 34, 41-43, 45, and 46 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 second paragraph. The Examiner indicated that "the claims make mention to deployable reaction surfaces being components of the airbag module, where the airbag module is clearly a separate component from the steering wheel. Also, the claims mention trim covering and contacting the deployable reaction surface, the specification does not appear to support the assertion."

Applicants submit that the present claims have been amended to overcome the rejections based upon § 112. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 24 have been amended to include elements found in original claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, and 9. These claims have also been amended to recite that there is no steering wheel ring in the steering wheel assembly. Support for this element is found in Figure 2A. Such a claim element regarding no steering wheel ring is not found in Ochiai or Shiraki (which were the principal references used by the Examiner in a prior Office Action). Accordingly, these claims are allowable over the cited references. New claim 54 is added based upon the language of original claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10. This new claim also recites that there is no steering wheel ring in the steering wheel assembly. Accordingly, this claim is likewise allowable.

Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If there are any remaining issues preventing allowance of the pending claims that may be clarified by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,


Sally J. Brown
Reg. No. 37,788
Attorney for Applicant(s)

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Autoliv ASP, Inc.
3350 Airport Road
Ogden, Utah 84405
Telephone: (801) 625-4994